9/25/68

Dear Gary,

Sorry it has taken so long to straighten out the points in your letter of 9/18, of which, I believe, I had sent Paul a copy, as I shall of this.

It is, of course, possible that I did file some of these papers xxxx as I copied them. I made a copy of each for each of you. There is also the possibility of mechanical error. Paul found several duplicates: Coleman to Slawson (GA-1-CIA); CD 87, SS576; CD19, p/28, which I enclose. However, unless I erred in sending Paul all copies, I believe it is safe to assume that what I do not have and he does not, I just didn't get.

For his benefit, I list what you asked for:

CD20, pp 6-8,24-5
1120
1484, 2-3
1485, 4-6,11
1179 (2), 100-4; 295-8 (this is the Watley report, Paul)
1141, 5-6
131 (2pp)
372 (SS1011)

Of these, I seem to have only what I herewith enclose: 1179(2)295-8, 372 (SS1011), the only page of CD1141, unnumbered save in the typescript(56).

You asked for a better copy of 446d, which is also enclosed.

While I acknowledge I may have caused the confusion, that it may be confusion rather than Johnson failing to fill your order, and that it is more likely because at that period my new supplies of paper had not yet arrived, I think the error is his because I think I laid all of this aside prior to filing, having the intent of reorganizing my files to make them more accessible. I suggest you ask Johnson for copies of these and, if he says his records show he sent them to me, I'll repay you the cost. Also, please send both Paul and me copies, unless he lets you know he has these.

There is the additional possibility I have been careless because I have not been working as continuously, because other things have been on my mind. I have, as you know, been trying to rebuild my muscles, so to speak. The past several weeks we have had no rain and I've been spending more time than usual outside, trying to get done before bad weather the work so long postponed. Pretty successful, may I add. Until last night's New Year's party at the local rabbi's, I had lowered my weight to 173, a figure I've gotten down to but once in the past more than 40 years. I probably put five pounds back last night and will sweat some of that off today. One of the unfortunate consequences is that I now have no clothes that fit me. Except those in style in 1944-5! Wide lapels! I cannot afford to rehaberdash, so I'll make my coming trip either droopy or wide-lapelled.

Your interest in Penabez is warranted. I enclose two pages of his paper. If you want them please copy and return. I'm running out of paperx again and just cannot afford a new supply. I'm trying to go further with him because of this Duarte bit. I'll keep you posted. Bud had interviewed him, and I'll eventually send you a copy of his memo on that. I have several other angles working, through others.

For both of you, a slight ray of hope. My contact at Playboy had asked to see COUP. He thought it unlikely they'd be interested but wanted to consider the possibility of their abstracting an article. My previous experience with them,

rather, my last previous one, began in early February. Earlier, they had asked me to clobber Lane for his impositions in them in their interview. This I had, I now regret, declined to do. They then apparently had had to assign rather extensive and expensive manpower to correct his abundant errors, to use the kind word. From them on there had been a desultory correspondence-phone relationship. Their managing editor had been scheduled to visit me a year ago June. Didn't. They then asked for help on what Eric Norden was to have done on the Minutemen, and I did this work for them. They asked to see some of my autopsy stuff, and I stopped off in Chicago on my way to California in early February. We spent much of a day together. It was then their opinion that unless they could completely solve the crime, they'd do nothing else on the assassination. When they asked for COUP, they said they'd give me an answer in a week. That has now been about six weeks. I phoned yesterday and they appear to have some interest. They promised an answer in a week. I do not permit myself the luxury of hope, but, knowing their attitude, I take this as no less than a sign of the merit of the content. Their problem is not content. They seem to regard this kind of data as rather technical. I have a similar problem elsewhere, from another publication whose expert has been supposed to come here for several months and several days ago said he hopes it can be soon. If either interest comes to anything, the revenue may be enough to publish the book.

They also asked to see what I have thus far done with the executive sessions. I sent that yesterday. When you will have time to read it rapidly and return it promptly, Gary, I'll send it to you. Let me know. It is about 30,000 words. However, I want this to be when you can make notes that will have meaning. More and more I lean to the idea of writing a book AGENT OSWALD, which will really be three books in one: Oswald as an Agent, Liebeler, and the ex sess. They all relate. I think the ex sess are worth a separate book but see no possibility of it being commercially acceptable or affording it myself. I ask you both to note for me what content you think appropriate aside from what I have just sent you or what I have already written. Among the things we know about that I am coming to regard as more significanct are the Fain 1962 interview and the absence of any Kaack affidavit. Here, Paul, I have not heard from Wade and again ask for the suggestions I earlier sought. I'll be writing him soon, if I do not hear. Hosty also assumes more possible significance. I spent 5-6 pleasant hours with the Castorrs Sunday, will be seeing them again soon when I can introduce Bud, and learned a little more about the Surreys. It now appears clear to me that the idea Oswald shot at Walker originates in West Germany! Walker took this up with Castorr before the Commission displayed any interest in it with Marina. Have Surrey's republication of the Dallas assassination stories. Mechanically it is quite large. Somehow I'll make copies of the more interesting stories, one of which deals with an Osborne Marine mate, rather interesting when it is recalled the handbill in which Paul is so interested was ordered in that name. Five lines above, "with Marina, I have" is what the strikeover should read.

I went to say nothing about it, but Bud and I are going to New Orleans for two weeks in early December. He is scheduled to return from there today. He went with a limited purpose, but I asked him to undertake a few chores. We will be going for our own, non-connected investigations....Philip Geraci III has been home since his return from Vietnam for his father's funeral. Jim and I had a rather firm agreement, stemming from their rather inexcusable blunder with Raul Naves, which was an open and entirely unnecessary violation of an earlier agreement, that they would have me in on any of this. My request for this, made directly of Jim, was not from vanity or a right to my own literary properties, but simply because they didn't know a damned thing about it. Jim said that unless there was a pressing legal need, I'd be in on it. I now find that, without telling, asking or consulting, they had made several unsuccessful efforts to interview Philip. Louis promised me over a week ago that before they tried again they'd consult. Silence. I feel they are now looking for lemmings to emulate. I have been able to give them but the essence of what I have on Philip. He now seems to be fantastically important in their Shaw case, as I learned when I was picking up the few remaining pieces with a re-interview

with Raul. I have this on tape. Apparently, and please, strictest confidence, Philip was a homosexual contact of Mario Bermudez. I have three other confirmations! I have both parents on tape on this. On one occasion, Bermudez appears to have used Shaw s car. There are many other things about Philip. I think I indicated some to you and Hal.

What was done with Raul cannot be explained by incompetence. I have thought much about it and have decided one of two things must be causative: simple jealousy, because I go down there and do what they cannot and do not, or a deliberate effort to blow the thing. I'd prefer to be able to fix on almost any other alternatives but cannot. There is, to me, too much reason to credit both. If it is the latter, it seems to finger Moo. Various things have come back to me indicating the first is true, whether or not it is in this case a factor.

It apparently is entirely impossible to have any kind of cooperative relationship with them. Until this year, I had content myself with developing leads and sources and turning them over, on the assumption they'd then do the necessary, that they'd then look out for their own interest. They never did. I turned over to Jim, personally, last November, a tremenduous number of things I began to tumble to. It was not until I found out they had done nothing about them that I had to spend the large amount of time I put in there this year. You know some of the results. Even their confirmation on Bradley through Max Gonzalez is something they'd have had much earlier if they'd followed what I turned over. Trusting them I didn't even make memos on some of this. How can one, working 20 hours a day without making memos? Gonzalez is but one of two of those who knew things of Ferrie, including his aviation activities and connections at the airport I told them about almost a year ago. They all knew Gonzalez and never spoke to him. I recall Jim's reaction very well. He said Max was a fine guy and he'd certainly have to talk to him. So, they didn't. I now do not recall either my source or the other name. They were to have had all this on tape, more than six hours of my interviews. They blew the taping. I sat down with Jim, not knowing the taping was incomprehensible, and gave him the essence, the names and leads. He then and there made long-hand notes. I have several times asked him for copies, so I can pick up all the threads. Each time he promises them. I've never gotten them. There may be much more I've not been able to follow through with, for I just cannot recall all the names or events.

After I left the last time I wrote him explaining how, but a simple inquiry of a specific office, he might uncover an entire federal operation against him. He had nothing to lose by trying it and need I say how much he could have gained. He has yet to answer, in any way. I've not heard from him since I saw him, on my initiative, not his, the day I left. Not a thing I've asked for have I gotten, and I've asked for nothing secret or improper, merely for a few of my things. I have developed the strong feeling that they are arranging a martyrdom and that Mark is an indispensible part of it.

Through Philip and my lead on all of this I have put Bringuier in an entirely different category. Right now I can only hope they do not develop any interest in this for I am confident they will blow anything they try. I regard it as potentially very important, one of the reasons I have been trying so hard to be able to file a suit against him. I again emphasize, all of this in strictest confidence. On Bringuier and this bit, there is a tenuous suggestion of Thornley involvement with Bringuier. Politically it is compatible. The evidence is not solid. It is now entirely unsupported. That is, with anything I know. This also is one of the reasons I kept after the Times-Picayune. If you did not notice their retraction of the 21st, I'll send you a copy. Please understand that in forcing this I have put him and his attorneys in the position of having to try and serve me if and when I am there again. This means I'll be subject to suit, probably. I cannot hire a lawyer to defend it. I've already told the ACLU I shall ask for their help, and publicly, when it happens. It took Jim a year to realize what I can do in a civil suit that he cannot in criminal action. Once he realized it, nothing

happened. He could have helped arrange it. When I told him of the Canyon suit, what was being connived behind my back, what I had been able to frustrate and what I would not be able to prevent, he volunteered that if and when it came to pass he'd see to it there was a quarter-page ad in the papers saying the book had not been withdrawn, how it could be gotten, etc. He repeated his opinion, never expressed except in private, that OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS was the best and most important book. He is well aware of the harm this can do his case. We discussed it. Had his legal opponents not been in on this, had they not bragged prematurely, I'd never have known about it in time to accomplish first the delays and then frustrate the pending deal.

I hadn't expected to go into all of this. However, it is something I think you should be aware of.

It seems likely to me that Bud now, independently and privately, has much of the same feeling I do. When he was last here he asked me if I would go to N.O. with him for two weeks, for which he'd pay, for us to work independently of the office. It is in preparation for this that I asked him to undertake a few things whule he was there the past few days. These are things I turned over almost a year ago and about which nothing was done.

Let me alert you to several other fields of interest in which you may be able to make suggestions. I solicit them if you can. Father Machann, Luis and Maurice Ferre, Texas Industries (John and Joanna Rogers), Ramos (phonetic, a baseball guy), Cuban Catholic relief (Dallas and New Orleans, and in N.O., Mrs. Cerniglia) Mrs. Connell, the Insuas, Lieutenant George Butler, a deceased named Schwille (sort of a Knott's Berry Farm guy in Dallas). Mrs. Cerniglia has a file on every Cuban she's helped. Interest does not necessarily indicate culpability. Sylvia Odio was for a while in the Rogers home, arranged by her friend Luis Ferre. While there she got some mysterious letters from Connell, then in Boston. Mrs. Rogers turned them over to Butler, all of this after the assessination. Connell was then in Boston visiting a medical-student son and was visited by Machann, who was not financially in a position to travel. I suspect Sylvia told him things before the assessination, in the confessional. Machann is now in Europe. When he left Dallas he went to Louisiana and worked in a mental-health group. I continue to wonder whxy Rowley did not let Kelley write the letter I use in O in N.O.

Gary, let me remind you about the Martin affidavit. It is important. Also, please present this problem to Patsy. I have a polaroid copy of one of the original forms of 133A and B, the one with the rifle in the left hand. If I cannot get the original from which this was copied, or if that is an unoriginal, say was printed, can he do anything with it that cannot be done by other photographers? This one, unmistakeably, shows a woman between Oswald and the post of the stairs, with bushes, in the next yard. I am having 35mm copies made now. It proves, beyond any doubt at all, that at the very least this picture was federally doctored or the feds knew it had been earlier doctored. I have proof from Fred Newcomb of another aspect of the doctoring. It can be pretty important.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg